IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 23, and continuing to page 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Figure 1 shows a block diagram of the system architecture for a conventional personal computer system, comprising a central processing unit (CPU) 1; a read only memory (ROM) 2 for permanent storage of basic input output system (BIOS) and the initial states of internal devices, a random access memory (RAM) 3 for temporary storage of information; a micro computer (MICOM) 4 for controlling peripheral devices such as a keyboard input device, a mouse input device, and a power supply 7; a hard disk (HDD) 8 for providing a secondary information storage; a disk controller 5 for controlling HDD; a video output display 6 for displaying information; and a power supply 7. When power is applied to the computer system, the computer system starts to be booted to load an operating system (OS) and thus is brought into a known useful state in which application programs can be executed. This procedure is generally called "booting". An operating system is a software that provides resource management on a computer system, including basic tasks such as process execution, memory management, and file management. Examples are MS-DOS, Windows95, OS/2, and UNIX. Execution of user applications is based on these basic functions of the operating system.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 19, and continuing to page 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The boot process of an IBM PC in which MS-DOS operating system is already installed is as follows. When a user turns the personal computer power switch on or presses a reset button, a power-on self test (POST) is performed by ROM BIOS codes to diagnose each component of the personal computer. Next, a file called MSDOS.SYS is loaded and executed, and another file called IO.SYS is then loaded and executed to perform certain preliminary functions related to management of such peripheral devices as keyboard, disk, and display. And then, a command preprocessor or COMMAND.COM is loaded into a memory that receives, interprets and executes user commands. A file called CONFIG.SYS that specifies devices possibly connected to the personal computer is loaded and ASCII statements contained therein are executed to load device drivers and initialize them. Finally, another ASCII file called AUTOEXEC.BAT is loaded and then programs that are listed therein are executed, thereby preparing the personal computer for use.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--There two kinds of boots; "cold boots" and "warm boots", which rely on the state of the computer system when the boot operation is requested. A "cold boot" is performed when power is applied to the computer or a reset button is pressed. When an operating system is loaded in memory already and the

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computer system is powered on already, a user may request a "warm boot" by entering a predefined sequence of key strokes, e.g., <Ctrl>+<Alt>+<Del>. The BIOS codes include a plurality of computer routines for controlling devices such as a system clock, video output display 6, disk controller 5, and keyboard and thus provide a low-level interface to these devices. The BIOS is generally stored in a Flash ROM.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 25, and continuing to page 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It is therefore a primary object of the present invention to provide a method and apparatus that significantly reduces the time required for boot process after a POST operation by using a boot configuration information on memory and the attached devices that were created and saved in a disk in the preceding boot process, and thereby skipping execution of statements in an initial device configuration file and an automatic batch file.--